

Syria - Israel

Attitude toward Israel less belligerent

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14 October 1952

Syria, Damascus

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An influential Syrian politician, an expert on Near Eastern questions.

1. The danger of an attempt at a violent solution of the Palestine question by Syria has been considerably modified by the attitude of Egypt. Adib el Shishakly, in conversations with intimates, says he no longer counts on the moral support or benevolent neutrality of Egypt. Shishakly regards General Naguib's attitude as one of "rootless opportunism."
2. On the other hand, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem is making active propaganda against Israel. He has declared that something must be done or the major drive of the Arab countries against Israel will fail. He feels that an event must be produced which will rouse to activity, not only Shishakly, but important persons in Iraq, Jordan and even Egypt.
3. A leading member of one of the action groups of the Arab League informed source that Grand Mufti held conversations at the end of September in Beirut with members of the "storm troop" who were being prepared for sabotage action against Israel.

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SOURCES METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006